(c) the total dues of public enterprises related to power and coal against the States and other institutions at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABH BHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of India has approved the scheme of one time settlement of outstanding dues of State Electricity Boards (SEBs) payable to the Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) of the Ministry of Power, Coal, Atomic Energy and Railways, which essentially seeks to convert SEBs dues into bonds to be floated by the respective State Governments.

(c) The total outstanding dues (principal and surcharge-indicative) payable as on 30.9.2001 by the SEBs to the Power CPSEs amounted to Rs. 26,757.77 crores and to the Coal, Atomic Energy and Railways CPSEs amounted to Rs. 15,094.86 crores.

Ban on Pepsi Cola

†4863. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at the time of entry in India Pepsi Cola had assured that it would work for the benefit of farmers through commercialization of agriculture in Punjab and other agriculturally dominated States in collaboration with concerned State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government would impose ban on Pepsi Cola for backing out of its assurance and not performing as per the agreement; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABH BHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Non-Payment to suppliers of raw-material to HCL

4864. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many suppliers of raw-material to the Hindustan Cables Limited were not paid for the supplies during the last two years; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the action proposed for timely payment to such small-scale industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABH BHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) Generally, HCL has been paying its raw material suppliers regularly except in cases of disputes relating to quantity, quality, delivery schedule etc. During 2001-2002 the selling price of PIJF Cables came down by around 17% compared to the actual price in the previous year leading to a drastic squeeze in the operating margins and working captial crunch. This has delayed payment to suppliers of raw materials.

(b) Measures to deal with the problem including efforts to obtain release of substantial orders for PIJF cables for the year 2002 along with advance which materializing will be helpful in making payment to material suppliers.

VRS to PSU employees

4865. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whehter it is a fact that a Vountary Retirement Scheme has been notified w.e.f. the 5th May, 2000 for public sector undertaking employees;

(b) if so, the number of employees who sought voluntary retirement in each of the public sector undertakings till the end of March, 2002;

(c) the total amount of compensation paid to these employees;

(d) whether any of the public sector undertaking has also been wound up as a result thereof; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABH BHAI RAMJI BHAI KATHIRIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Since inception of voluntary retirement scheme in October, 1988 and upto March 2001, upto which period information is available, 3,69,277 employees opted for voluntary retirement. Enterprise-wise details are enclosed as statement (*See* below). A total amount of Rs. 6930.45 crore of compensation has been paid to the VR optees.